

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 28, 2021

The Honorable Denis R. McDonough
Secretary
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20420

Dear Mr. Secretary,

We write in response to your June 19, 2021 announcement that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will begin the process of “changing VA’s regulations and establishing policy” to allow the VA to provide and cover sex reassignment surgeries. We strongly oppose these proposed actions and urge you not to proceed.

The mission of the Veteran’s Health Administration’s is to “honor America’s Veterans by providing exceptional health care that improves their health and well-being.” We believe that providing sex reassignment surgeries is wholly incompatible with this mission.

As you noted in your remarks, veterans suffering from Gender Identity Disorder experience suicidal ideation at a rate significantly higher than the general veteran population. We believe that the VA pushing unproven and irreversible sex reassignment surgeries on such a vulnerable population is dangerous and irresponsible.

Not only do sex reassignment surgeries not improve outcomes for patients, but what little research we do have shows that these procedures may make the problem even worse. In the Obama Administration’s 2016 “Decision Memo for Gender Dysphoria and Gender Reassignment Surgery” (CAG-00446N), the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid correctly noted that those that had undergone sex reassignment procedures experienced “increased mortality and psychiatric hospitalization compared to the matched controls. The mortality was primarily due to completed suicides.”¹

Moreover, with so many of our nation’s heroes experiencing significant delays in receiving the medical care they need through the VA, we believe it is disgraceful that instead of working to

¹<https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/nca-decision-memo.aspx?NCAId=282&bc=gIAAAAAACAAAAAA&>

address problems in the access and delivery of true medical care, the VA is pushing experimental sex reassignment surgeries on veterans.

The VA should not be providing dangerous sex reassignment surgeries and certainly should not be using taxpayer dollars to do so. American taxpayer dollars should be going towards improving the health and well-being of our nation's heroes—not experimenting on them.

We strongly urge you to reconsider your announcement that the VA will be taking these actions and look forward to hearing from you regarding this critical matter.

Sincerely,



Matthew Rosendale, Sr.
Member of Congress



Chip Roy
Member of Congress



Tracey Mann
Member of Congress



Barry Moore
Member of Congress



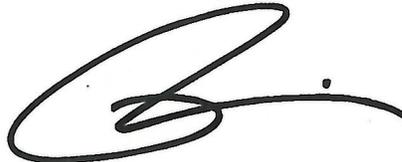
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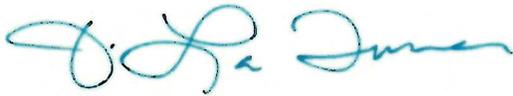
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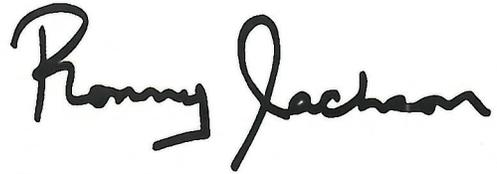
Alex X. Mooney
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Robert B. Aderholt
Member of Congress



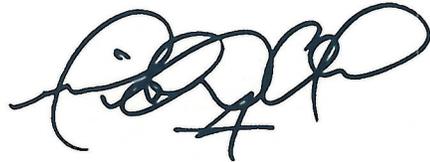
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